Reduction in Import duty on Aseptic Form Fill Seal Machines

173. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : SHRI N. E. BALARAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the import duty on aseptic Form-Fill-Seal machines for packing intravenous fluids by the pharmaceutical industry has been proposed to be reduced from 40 to 15 per cent; and

(b) if so, where from and since when the imports of such machines are made and how far it is going to benefit the people or the industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) With effect from 28th February, 1993, the import duty on aseptic Form-Fill-Seal machines for use in pharmaceutical industry has been reduced from 40% to 15%.

(b) The Government have no data regarding the sources of imports as also the time since these machines are being imported. The concession in import duty is intended to improve the availability of aseptically packed intravenous fluids to the general public.

Strike by Bank Employees

174. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the employees of Banks, Insurance and financial institutions obsered a day's strike throughout the country to press their demands;

(b) if so, what are the details of the strike and the demands for which the strike was observed;

(c) what are the reasons for which the demands of the employees are not being conceded by Government;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the employees of these institutions propose for another strike in May, 1993; and

(e) if so, what remedial action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) and (b) Members affiliated to All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC), National Confederation of Bank Employees (NCBE) and Bank Employees' Federation of India (BEFI), alongwith unions from Reserve Bank of India and other financial institutions, went on a day's strike on March 29, 1993 in support of the following demands—

1. Introduction of Pension as third retiral benefit.

2. Early wage revision.

3. Bonus for all.

4. Alleged move for privatisation of financial institutions etc.

(c) to (e) Indian Banks' Association has reported that they have received a notice for strike on 11th and 12th May, 1993 from certain employees' unions.

In the banking industry matters relating to pay, allowances, and service conditions of the bank employees are decided through bilateral negotiations between Indian Banks' Association (Representing the banks' managements) and the representatives of workmen unions. In terms of provisions contained in the Vth Bipartite Settlement, which expired on 31-10-92, four rounds of discussions on the charters of demands submitted by the employees unions for the